United Nations A/55/365

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 September 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 61 (b) of the provisional agenda*
United Nations reform: measures and proposals:
The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations

Letter dated 7 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government and in keeping with the practice in the sessions of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the position of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the claims against the territorial integrity of my country made by one of the speakers in the 5th plenary meeting of the Millennium Summit (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61 (b) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad-Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/55/150 and Corr.1 and 2.

00-63645 (E) 110900

Annex to the letter dated 7 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The claims made today against territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran by Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammad Al-Sharqi, Member of the Supreme Council, Ruler of the Emirate of Fujeirah of the United Arab Emirates, in the 5th plenary meeting of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations are baseless and unacceptable.

Since the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard is very clear, there is no need for getting into specifics. Let it suffice to emphasize that the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully committed to its international obligations, including those arising from the 1971 Understanding.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has friendly ties with its neighbours in the Persian Gulf and continues to stand ready, as in the past, to enter into substantive discussions with United Arab Emirates officials in good faith and with no conditions in order to solve any possible misunderstanding.

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to peace and security in the Persian Gulf region and has so far spared no effort in furthering the cause of peace and security as well as good-neighbourly relations in the region.

United Nations A/55/366

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 September 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 7
Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations

Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with the provisions of Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations and with the consent of the Security Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to notify the General Assembly of matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security that are being dealt with by the Security Council and of matters with which the Council has ceased to deal.

2. The matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security that have been discussed during the period since the notification to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session (A/54/398) are the following:

1. The situation in Africa.
2. Small arms.
3. The situation between Iraq and Kuwait.
4. The situation in Afghanistan.
5. The situation in Angola.
6. The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.
7. The situation in Sierra Leone.
8. The situation in the Central African Republic.
9. The situation in East Timor.*

* Prior to the 4041st meeting, held on 3 September 1999, this item had been formulated as "The situation in Timor".

00-63657 (E) 150900

10. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

11. The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

12. Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999).

13. International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

    International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States, between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994.

14. The situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border.

15. The situation in Georgia.

16. The situation in Somalia.

17. The situation in Burundi.

18. The situation in the Middle East.

19. Role of the Security Council in the prevention of armed conflicts.

20. The question concerning Haiti.

21. The situation concerning Western Sahara.

22. The situation in Cyprus.

23. The situation in Croatia.

24. Promoting peace and security: humanitarian assistance to refugees in Africa.

25. Protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones.

26. Briefing by Mr. Carl Bildt, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Balkans.

27. Maintaining peace and security: humanitarian aspects of issues before the Security Council.

28. Maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peace-building.

29. The situation in Guinea-Bissau.

30. The situation concerning Rwanda.

31. General issues relating to sanctions.

32. Protection of civilians in armed conflict.

* Prior to the 3647th meeting, held on 4 April 1996, this item had been formulated as "The situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

33. The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

34. International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

35. The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security: HIV/AIDS and international peacekeeping operations.

36. Children and armed conflict.

3. In accordance with the procedure set out in the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 August 1996 (S/1996/704), the Secretary-General, in his summary statement of 15 February 2000 on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration submitted pursuant to rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council (S/2000/40), informed Member States that, as at 1 January 2000, the Security Council had not considered in formal meetings during the preceding five-year period (1995-1999) the following items (the item numbers correspond to those contained in paragraph 11 of document S/1999/25):

1. The Palestine question.

2. The India-Pakistan question (S/628).

3. The Hyderabad question (S/986).

4. Letter dated 20 February 1958 from the representative of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General (S/3963).

5. Letter dated 11 July 1960 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4378).

6. Letter dated 31 December 1960 from the Minister for External Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4605).

8. The situation in the India/Pakistan subcontinent (S/10411).

9. Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10409).

10. Complaint by Cuba (S/10993).

11. Arrangements for the proposed Peace Conference on the Middle East.

12. Complaint by Iraq concerning incidents on its frontier with Iran (S/11216).

16. The Middle East problem, including the Palestinian question.

17. Request by the Libyan Arab Republic and Pakistan for consideration of the serious situation arising from recent developments in the occupied Arab territories (S/12017).

19. The question of the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights.

20. The situation between Iran and Iraq.

21. Complaint by Iraq (S/14509).

22. Letter dated 19 February 1983 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15615).

23. Letter dated 8 August 1983 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15914).

25. Letter dated 22 March 1984 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/16431).

26. Letter dated 1 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17509).

27. Letter dated 4 February 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17787).

28. Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17991);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17992);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17993);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17994).

30. Letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/19798).

31. Letter dated 4 January 1989 from the Charge d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20364);

Letter dated 4 January 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20367).

33. Letter dated 2 February 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/21120).

37. (a) The situation between Iraq and Kuwait;

(b) Letter dated 2 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/22435);

Letter dated 4 April 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/22442);

Letter dated 5 March 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/23685).

57. Complaint by Ukraine regarding the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation concerning Sevastopol.

62. Navigation on the Danube river in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

66. Note by the Secretary-General (S/1994/254);

Note by the Secretary-General (S/1994/322).

67. Agreement signed on 4 April 1994 between the Governments of Chad and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya concerning the practical modalities for the implementation of the Judgment delivered by the International Court of Justice on 3 February 1994.

68. Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a letter dated 27 May 1994 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) addressed to the Secretary-General (S/1994/631).

69. The situation in the Republic of Yemen.

71. Agreed framework of 21 October 1994 between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

72. The situation prevailing in and around the safe area of Bihac.

73. Letter dated 14 December 1994 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1994/1418).

74. Security Council working methods and procedure.

4. Subsequently, in accordance with the procedure contained in document S/1996/704, the Secretary-General received notifications from Member States requesting him to retain items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 57 and 74, as they appear in paragraph 3 above, on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized.

5. Also, pursuant to the decisions of the Security Council referred to above and in the absence of receipt of any notification to the contrary by 31 March 2000 requesting the retention of an item listed in paragraph 3 above, the remaining items mentioned therein, that is, items 37, 62, 66, 67, 68, 69, 71, 72 and 73, were deleted from the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized.

6. During the period since the notification to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session (A/54/398), the Security Council has not discussed at a formal meeting the following matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security of which it remains seized:

1. The Palestine question.
2. The India-Pakistan question (S/628).
3. The Hyderabad question (S/986).
4. Letter dated 20 February 1958 from the representative of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General (S/3963).
5. Letter dated 11 July 1960 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4378).
6. Letter dated 31 December 1960 from the Minister for External Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/4605).
7. The situation in the India/Pakistan subcontinent (S/10411).
8. Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10409).
9. Complaint by Cuba (S/10993).
10. Arrangements for the proposed Peace Conference on the Middle East.
11. Complaint by Iraq concerning incidents on its frontier with Iran (S/11216).
12. The Middle East problem, including the Palestinian question.
13. Request by the Libyan Arab Republic and Pakistan for consideration of the serious situation arising from recent developments in the occupied Arab territories (S/12017).
14. The situation in the occupied Arab territories.
15. The question of the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights.
16. The situation between Iran and Iraq.
17. Complaint by Iraq (S/14509).
18. Letter dated 19 February 1983 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15615).
19. Letter dated 8 August 1983 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15914).
20. Letter dated 22 March 1984 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/16431).

21. Letter dated 1 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17509).

22. Letter dated 4 February 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17787).

23. Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17991);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17992);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17993);

Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17994).

24. Letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/19798).

25. Letter dated 4 January 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20364);

Letter dated 4 January 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20367).

26. Central America: efforts towards peace.

27. Letter dated 2 February 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/21120).

28. The situation in Cambodia.

29. The situation in Liberia.

30. The situation relating to Nagorny Karabakh.

31. An agenda for peace: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping.

32. The situation in Mozambique.

33. The situation prevailing in and adjacent to the United Nations Protected Areas in Croatia.

34. Establishment of an international tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

35. The situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

36. Follow-up to resolution 817 (1993).

37. United Nations Protection Force.

38. Complaint by Ukraine regarding the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation concerning Sevastopol.

39. Security of United Nations operations.

40. Letters dated 20 and 23 December 1991 from France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

41. An agenda for peace: peacekeeping.

42. An agenda for peace.

43. The proposal by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America on security assurances.

44. Navigation on the Danube river.

45. The situation in the former Yugoslavia.

46. Letter dated 9 January 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning the extradition of the suspects wanted in the assassination attempt on the life of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Addis Ababa on 26 June 1995 (S/1996/10).

47. Shooting down of two civil aircraft on 24 February 1996.

48. Signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba).

49. Demining in the context of United Nations peacekeeping.

50. Letters dated 23 September and 3 and 11 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1996/774, S/1996/824 and S/1996/847);

Letters dated 23 and 27 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council and to the Secretary-General, respectively (S/1996/768 and S/1996/800).

51. The situation in the Great Lakes region.

52. The situation in Albania

53. Protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations.

54. Civilian police in peacekeeping operations.

55. The situation in the Republic of the Congo.

56. Letter dated 11 March 1998 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/223);

Letter dated 27 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/272).

57. Letter dated 31 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/287).

58. Letter dated 29 June 1998 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/581);

Letter dated 25 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/1998/582);

Letter dated 25 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/1998/583).

59. International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994.

60. Threats to peace and security caused by international terrorist acts.

61. Promoting peace and security: humanitarian activities relevant to the Security Council.

62. Letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/320).

63. Letter dated 7 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/523).

64. Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998) and 1203 (1998).

65. Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998) and 1239 (1999).

United Nations A/55/367–S/2000/856

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 September 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 7 September 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued after the meeting of our Heads of State or Government on 7 September 2000 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

Wang **Yingfan**
Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

Jean-David **Levitte**
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

Sergey V. **Lavrov**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Jeremy **Greenstock**
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

Richard C. **Holbrooke**
Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations

00-63590 (E) 110900

Annex to the letter dated 7 September 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement issued on 7 September 2000 by the Heads of State or Government of the five Permanent Members of the Security Council following their meeting

We, President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China, President Jacques Chirac of the Republic of France, President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of the Russian Federation, Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and President William Jefferson Clinton of the United States of America have met in New York on 7 September 2000 and hereby state the following:

Mindful of the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council in regard to the maintenance of international peace and security, we share a solemn commitment to ensuring that the United Nations is stronger, more effective and more efficient than ever before as it enters the twenty-first century.

The challenges facing the United Nations and the world community are daunting. To meet such challenges, the world community's response must be quicker, more targeted, and better coordinated than ever before. As the world's only truly universal organization — in terms both of its mandate and its membership — the United Nations has an essential role in the twenty-first century.

The United Nations can only be as effective, as creative and as authoritative as its Members will it to be. Moving into the next century, the permanent members of the Security Council pledge, together with the entire membership, to strengthen the United Nations, ensure the authority of the Security Council and uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Bearing primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council, in particular its permanent members, has an abiding interest in ensuring that the United Nations is equipped to meet the challenges it faces. We therefore commit ourselves to strengthening the operational capabilities of the Security Council in this area. Only by strengthening our dedication to the purposes and principles of the Charter and by endowing the United Nations with the means to deliver on its many commitments can we fulfil our obligations to ensure that the United Nations can achieve its full potential.

To this end, we will focus our efforts on the following priority areas:

(a) Enhancing leadership for peace and security. The leadership role of the United Nations, particularly in maintaining international peace and security, must be strengthened to reflect the Organization's changing challenges and priorities. This evolution must take into account both the shifting face of the world community and the types of conflicts the United Nations must confront today. We commit ourselves to fostering a more transparent and broadly representative Security Council to enhance its effectiveness as the leading body in the field of international peace and security.

(b) Strengthening peacekeeping. The nature and number of international conflicts demanding United Nations involvement has shifted fundamentally over the past decade, a change that has yet to be reflected in structural reforms to equip the United Nations to fulfil the array of mandates it now faces. We pledge to move expeditiously to endow the United Nations with resources — both operational and financial — commensurate to the tasks it faces in its peacekeeping activities worldwide. Enhancing the United Nations peacekeeping capacity should strengthen the central role of the United Nations in conflict prevention and settlement. We look to the recommendations of the Secretary-General's Expert Panel on Peace Operations as an important element to be considered in order to ensure the effectiveness of the United Nations in this vital arena.

(c) Revitalizing management. The breadth, scope, and complexity of the activities of the United Nations demand effective leadership. We pledge to support steps to empower the Secretary-General with a mandate to modernize and streamline the Secretariat further, to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of programmes, and to focus the Organization's resources on priority areas, while bringing closure to activities that no longer warrant continued investment.

(d) Replenishing human resources. The most valuable resource of the United Nations is its people. The skill, vision, and dedication of the United Nations Secretariat staff have made possible all that the United Nations has accomplished to date, and will determine the Organization's future. We pledge to support prompt steps to ensure that the United Nations base of human capital, particularly in the field of peacekeeping, can be fortified through a process that is transparent, equitable, and designed to attract the very best talent available from all corners of the world.

(e) Reaffirming financial commitment. As enshrined in the Charter, the United Nations financial base must accurately reflect the capabilities and responsibilities of every Member State. We pledge to support measures to broaden the resource base for this institution through financial structures that are equitable, transparent and reflective of current realities for the regular budget and the peacekeeping budget, and the financing of United Nations activities. We recognize the need to adjust the existing peacekeeping scale of assessments, which is based on the 1973 system, in the light of changed circumstances, including countries' current capacity to pay. Taking into account our special responsibilities as permanent members of the Security Council and the duty of all Member States to meet their financial obligations to the United Nations, we commit ourselves to creating a more stable and equitable financial foundation for current and future United Nations operations, including adjustments to the peacekeeping scale of assessment to reflect the role of all Member States and especially the role of all permanent members in peacekeeping financing.

In each of these areas we pledge to work together in the coming months and years to ensure that the United Nations is imbued with the resources, the vision, and the support it needs. As permanent members of the Security Council, we will continue to fulfil our obligations under the Charter and commit ourselves to making the Organization stronger and more effective. To that end, we agree to have more regular exchanges of views on important international issues at all levels.

We express our appreciation and support for the Secretary-General for the role he plays in the service of peace, development and strengthening the United Nations.

As we move into the next century, we pledge to work with the entire United Nations membership to bridge differences and agree on new measures to build on the promise of the United Nations first 55 years.

United Nations A/55/367*–S/2000/856*

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 September 2000
English
Original: Chinese, English, French, Russian

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 7 September 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued after the meeting of our Heads of State or Government on 7 September 2000 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Wang **Yingfan**
Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Levitte**
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey V. **Lavrov**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Richard C. **Holbrooke**
Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations

* Reissued for technical reasons.

00-63590* (E) 210900

Annex to the letter dated 7 September 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement issued on 7 September 2000 by the Heads of State or Government of the five Permanent Members of the Security Council following their meeting

We, President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China, President Jacques Chirac of the Republic of France, President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of the Russian Federation, Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and President William Jefferson Clinton of the United States of America have met in New York on 7 September 2000 and hereby state the following:

Mindful of the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council in regard to the maintenance of international peace and security, we share a solemn commitment to ensuring that the United Nations is stronger, more effective and more efficient than ever before as it enters the twenty-first century.

The challenges facing the United Nations and the world community are daunting. To meet such challenges, the world community's response must be quicker, more targeted, and better coordinated than ever before. As the world's only truly universal organization — in terms both of its mandate and its membership — the United Nations has an essential role in the twenty-first century.

The United Nations can only be as effective, as creative and as authoritative as its Members will it to be. Moving into the next century, the permanent members of the Security Council pledge, together with the entire membership, to strengthen the United Nations, ensure the authority of the Security Council and uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Bearing primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council, in particular its permanent members, has an abiding interest in ensuring that the United Nations is equipped to meet the challenges it faces. We therefore commit ourselves to strengthening the operational capabilities of the Security Council in this area. Only by strengthening our dedication to the purposes and principles of the Charter and by endowing the United Nations with the means to deliver on its many commitments can we fulfil our obligations to ensure that the United Nations can achieve its full potential.

To this end, we will focus our efforts on the following priority areas:

(a) Enhancing leadership for peace and security. The leadership role of the United Nations, particularly in maintaining international peace and security, must be strengthened to reflect the Organization's changing challenges and priorities. This evolution must take into account both the shifting face of the world community and the types of conflicts the United Nations must confront today. We commit ourselves to fostering a more transparent and broadly representative Security Council to enhance its effectiveness as the leading body in the field of international peace and security.

(b) Strengthening peacekeeping. The nature and number of international conflicts demanding United Nations involvement has shifted fundamentally over the past decade, a change that has yet to be reflected in structural reforms to equip the United Nations to fulfil the array of mandates it now faces. We pledge to move expeditiously to endow the United Nations with resources — both operational and financial — commensurate to the tasks it faces in its peacekeeping activities worldwide. Enhancing the United Nations peacekeeping capacity should strengthen the central role of the United Nations in conflict prevention and settlement. We look to the recommendations of the Secretary-General's Expert Panel on Peace Operations as an important element to be considered in order to ensure the effectiveness of the United Nations in this vital arena.

(c) Revitalizing management. The breadth, scope, and complexity of the activities of the United Nations demand effective leadership. We pledge to support steps to empower the Secretary-General with a mandate to modernize and streamline the Secretariat further, to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of programmes, and to focus the Organization's resources on priority areas, while bringing closure to activities that no longer warrant continued investment.

(d) Replenishing human resources. The most valuable resource of the United Nations is its people. The skill, vision, and dedication of the United Nations Secretariat staff have made possible all that the United Nations has accomplished to date, and will determine the Organization's future. We pledge to support prompt steps to ensure that the United Nations base of human capital, particularly in the field of peacekeeping, can be fortified through a process that is transparent, equitable, and designed to attract the very best talent available from all corners of the world.

(e) Reaffirming financial commitment. As enshrined in the Charter, the United Nations financial base must accurately reflect the capabilities and responsibilities of every Member State. We pledge to support measures to broaden the resource base for this institution through financial structures that are equitable, transparent and reflective of current realities for the regular budget and the peacekeeping budget, and the financing of United Nations activities. We recognize the need to adjust the existing peacekeeping scale of assessments, which is based on the 1973 system, in the light of changed circumstances, including countries' current capacity to pay. Taking into account our special responsibilities as permanent members of the Security Council and the duty of all Member States to meet their financial obligations to the United Nations, we commit ourselves to creating a more stable and equitable financial foundation for current and future United Nations operations, including adjustments to the peacekeeping scale of assessment to reflect the role of all Member States and especially the role of all permanent members in peacekeeping financing.

In each of these areas we pledge to work together in the coming months and years to ensure that the United Nations is imbued with the resources, the vision, and the support it needs. As permanent members of the Security Council, we will continue to fulfil our obligations under the Charter and commit ourselves to making the Organization stronger and more effective. To that end, we agree to have more regular exchanges of views on important international issues at all levels.

We express our appreciation and support for the Secretary-General for the role he plays in the service of peace, development and strengthening the United Nations.

As we move into the next century, we pledge to work with the entire United Nations membership to bridge differences and agree on new measures to build on the promise of the United Nations first 55 years.